

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
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ICA-20 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 ACDA-12 DOE-15
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R 190927Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8939
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, JA
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA'S SPEECH TO FOREIGN PRESS
- CLUB

SUMMARY: IN SPEECH TO FOREIGN PRESS CLUB JUNE 19, JAUNTY
AND JOKING PRIMIN FUKUDA SUMMED UP ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS
18-MONTH-OLD ADMINISTRATION, POINTING WITH PARTICULAR
PRIDE TO SUCCESSFUL OPENING OF NARITA AIRPORT AND TO
INITIATIVES TOWARDS ASEAN. PM SAID JAPAN ATTACHED UTMOST
IMPORTANCE TO CLOSEST POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP WITH ROK:
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CALLED FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH BOTH SOVIET UNION AND
PRC; THOUGHT SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRC OVER PFT WOULD
RESULT IN MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY TREATY; EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE
IN ACHIEVEMENT OF 7-PERCENT GROWTH RATE THIS YEAR; PROMISED
THAT JAPAN WOULD LIMIT VOLUME OF ITS EXPORTS AND INCREASE
IMPORTS IN ORDER TO REDUCE ITS CURRENT ACCOUNTS SURPLUS;AND
SAID JAPAN WOULD DO ITS BEST WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF STATUS OF

FORCES AGREEMENT TO INCREASE ITS SHARE OF U.S. MILITARY'S ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS HERE. WITH SMILE ON HIS FACE, PRIMIN SAID THAT NEITHER DIET DISSOLUTION NOR GENERAL ELECTION WAS ON HIS POLITICAL TIMETABLE AND ADDED THAT HE AND LDP SECGEN OHIRA HAD AGREED TO FREEZE ALL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH UPCOMING LDP PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION UNTIL OCTOBER. END SUMMARY.

1. LISTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION IN SPEECH TO FOREIGN PRESS CLUB JUNE 19, PRIMIN FUKUDA HIGHLIGHTED SMOOTH OPENING OF NARITA AIRPORT IN MAY AS MAJOR DOMESTIC ACHIEVEMENT. HE SAID NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HAD BEEN SEVERAL YEARS IN PLANNING AND WAS VITALLY NECESSARY BECAUSE OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS AT HANEDA CREATED EVER PRESENT DANGER OF TRAGIC ACCIDENT. PRIMIN SAID THAT OTHER MAJOR DOMESTIC ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS HIS SUCCESSFUL HANDLING OF THE DIET, RESULTING IN RECORD-BREAKING PASSAGE OF GOJ SPONSORED LEGISLATION IN SPITE OF VERY THIN RULING LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MAJORITY.

2. TURNING TO FOREIGN POLICY, PRIMIN HIGHLIGHTED HIS ADMINISTRATION'S MORE POSITIVE POSTURE TOWARDS SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND ASEAN NATIONS IN PARTICULAR, WHICH HE SAID RESULTED IN PART FROM FOREIGN CRITICISM THAT JAPAN MUST SPEAK OUT MORE ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND ASSUME MORE RESPONSIBILITY FOR STABILITY IN ASIA. HE CLAIMED THAT HIS AUGUST 1977 TRIP TO REGION HAD RESULTED FOR FIRST TIME IN UNCLASSIFIED

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MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NATIONS OF AREA AND JAPAN. HE SAID CURRENT TRIP TO THAILAND BY FONMIN SONODA WAS FOLLOW-UP TO JAPAN'S MORE VIGOROUS ASIAN POLICIES, AND THAT HE WOULD TAKE FURTHER INITIATIVES, PARTICULARLY TOWARD ASEAN, ON YEARLY BASIS. PRIMIN SAID THAT JAPAN WOULD ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THREE COMMUNIST INDO-CHINESE NATIONS AND TO WORK TOWARDS LESSENING OF TENSION BETWEEN THEM AND ASEAN IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

3. PM SAID HE BELIEVED THAT CLOSEST POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP WITH ROK WAS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO JAPAN. HE EXPRESSED PLEASURE IN PASSAGE BY DIET OF DOMESTIC LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PERMIT RATIFICATION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF TREATY WITHIN A FEW DAYS, SAYING THAT THIS ACT SHOULD DISSIPATE "BLACK CLOUDS" WHICH HAD BEEN HOVERING OVER RELATIONSHIP.

4. WITH RESPECT TO PRC, PM SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED SIX YEARS AGO CALLED FOR NEGOTIATION OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY, SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WERE JUST NOW BEGINNING. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT PFT SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES COULD BE SUCCESSFULLY

NEGOTIATED. PM SAID THAT JAPAN, IN SPITE OF DIFFICULT NORTHERN TERRITORIES ISSUE, HAD BEEN ABLE TO DEEPEN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH SOVIET UNION AS WELL. HE STRESSED JAPAN'S DESIRE FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH PRC AND USSR BUT SAID THAT THESE RELATIONSHIPS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ENTIRELY SEPARATE FROM ONE ANOTHER.

5. TURNING TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES, PM SAID THAT MOST TROUBLING QUESTION WAS THAT ECONOMIES OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL NATIONS HAD NOT RECOVERED TO DEGREE PREDICTED AT LAST YEAR'S LONDON SUMMIT. WHILE EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
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R 190927Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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DECLINE IN VALUE OF DOLLAR AND OTHER EVIDENCE OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY INSTABILITY, PM THOUGHT THAT BONN SUMMIT WOULD PROVE TO BE TURNING POINT IF PARTICIPANTS DISPLAYED DETERMINATION IN WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE STABLE GROWTH. HE REALIZED IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING JAPAN'S CURRENT-ACCOUNTS SURPLUS AND HAD TOLD PRESIDENT CARTER IN

MAY THAT THIS WAS HIS NUMBER-ONE GOAL. HE ASSERTED THAT IN SPITE OF NEGATIVE PREDICTIONS BY MEDIA AND PRIVATE ECONOMIC FORECASTERS, JAPAN WOULD ACHIEVE TARGETED 7-PERCENT GROWTH RATE AND WOULD STIMULATE DOMESTIC DEMAND TO POINT WHERE IMPORTS WOULD BE EXPANDED. HE NOTED
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SUCH FAVORABLE ECONOMIC INDICATORS AS STEADY INCREASE OVER LAST FIVE MONTHS IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, FALL IN INVENTORIES, AND 2.4 PERCENT NET GROWTH IN JANUARY-MARCH. PM ALSO RECOGNIZED NEED TO LIMIT EXPORTS AND SAID HE HAD SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING BUSINESS COMMUNITY THAT EXPORT VOLUME IN 1978 WOULD NOT EXCEED THAT OF 1977. BECAUSE OF INFLATION OVERSEAS, HE CAUTIONED AGAINST EXPECTING DECREASE IN VALUE OF JAPANESE EXPORTS AND DECLINED TO OFFER SPECIFIC DOLLAR AMOUNT BY WHICH CURRENT-ACCOUNTS SURPLUS WOULD BE REDUCED.

6. IN COMMENTING ON OTHER ISSUES IN WHICH U.S. HAD GREAT INTEREST, PM SAID THAT, IN VIEW OF INCREASING FINANCIAL BURDEN PLACED ON U.S. MILITARY FORCES IN JAPAN BECAUSE OF DECREASED VALUE OF DOLLAR, JAPAN WOULD INCREASE ITS SHARE OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS BORNE BY IT TO EXTENT PERMITTED BY STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, PM SAID THAT HE HAD PROPOSED TO PRESIDENT CARTER PROGRAM OF JOINT COORDINATED RESEARCH ON FUTURE ENERGY PROBLEMS, AND, IN NEW YORK SPEECH, HAD SUGGESTED FUND OF APPROXIMATELY \$500 MILLION TO \$1 BILLION DOLLARS TO CARRY OUT SUCH RESEARCH. HE SAID DETAILS OF SUCH JOINT RESEARCH, INCLUDING SIZE OF CONTRIBUTION, WERE STILL TO BE TALKED OVER WITH U.S. THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, BUT THAT HE PLANNED TO RAISE CONCEPT AT BONN SUMMIT AND HOPED THAT OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES WOULD ALSO PARTICIPATE.

7. IN BRIEF REFERENCE TO DOMESTIC POLITICAL TIMETABLE FOLLOWING CONCLUSION LAST WEEK OF CURRENT DIET SESSION, PM, WITH SMILE ON HIS FACE, DENIED, AS HE HAD IN EARLIER WEEKEND PRESS CONFERENCE, THAT HE WAS CONTEMPLATING DISSOLUTION OF DIET OR GENERAL ELECTION. WHILE HE MIGHT CALL EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION IF DOMESTIC ECONOMIC
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CONDITIONS REQUIRED ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENTAL MEASURES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE 7-PERCENT GROWTH RATE, HE CLAIMED THAT HE HAD OBTAINED AGREEMENT OF LDP SEC GEN OHIRA TO POLITICAL TRUCE UNTIL OCTOBER WITH RESPECT TO

FORTHCOMING LDP PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. IN INTERIM HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT MIDDLE EAST IN SEPTEMBER IF CONVENIENT TO NATIONS IN AREA.

8. COMMENT: AS IN TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE TO NATION JUNE 17 (SEPTTEL), PM USED MEETING WITH FOREIGN PRESS TO DRAMATIZE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION AND TO MAKE IT CLEAR, WITHOUT SAYING SO, THAT HE CONSIDERED HIMSELF UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO DIRECT NATION'S AFFAIRS. IN CONTRAST HIS OFTEN HAGGARD APPEARANCE LAST WINTER (WHICH LED TO PERSISTENT RUMORS OF CHRONIC ILL HEALTH) PM APPEARED VIGOROUS AND FULL OF GOOD HUMOR. HE NOTED THAT, IN SPITE OF HIS 73 YEARS, HE WAS, LIKE THE FIGURE ON THE JOHNNIE WALKER SCOTCH LABEL, "STILL GOING STRONG."
MANSFIELD

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